Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, November 30, 2010
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room RR-134

Wanda Pratt, PhD

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University of Washington

"Partners in Care: Facilitating Collaborative Clinic Encounters"

In this talk, I will describe our NIH-funded project to help cancer patients manage their health information that is interwoven with all other aspects of their life. Our goal in this project is both to understand the work that breast cancer patients do in managing their health information and to develop new technology that supports that work in the context of their daily lives. I will give an overview of our project and our discoveries to date, but I will focus in detail on one aspect—the problems that patients face in preparing for, participating in, and processing information after clinic appointments. We observed potential compromises to patients' health care when they experienced bursts of information, lack of advance information, fragmented attention, and heightened stress. To overcome these challenges, we are proposing a new project that will encourage collaboration between patients and their health-care provider and help patients maximize their information interactions during these important clinic appointments.

Wanda Pratt is an Associate Professor in both the Information School and the Division of Biomedical & Health Informatics in the Medical School at the University of Washington. She received her Ph.D. in Medical Informatics from Stanford University, her M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Texas, and her B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Kansas. Her published papers span a wide range of topics whose central theme is to understand the problem of information overload in a variety of health contexts and to develop new types technology to address those problems. She received an NSF CAREER Award for her work on literature-based discovery systems. She leads the iMed research group and now focuses exclusively on personal health informatics. She was on the editorial board for the Journal of Biomedical Informatics, and served on the standing grant-review committee for the National Library of Medicine.

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http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/schedule.htm

Podcasts from previous quarters are available at
http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/past.lecture.schedules.html